

U.K. will not cut down arms sale

TEHRAN, May 17 (R). — British Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen said in an interview published today that Britain would not cut back overseas arms sales to please the United States. In the interview carried by the English language newspaper Kayhan International he said that Britain had good and close relations with the new U.S. administration of President Jimmy Carter, but added: "This does not mean we think exactly the same or should always act in exactly the same way in all aspects of our policies." Dr. Owen, in Tehran last weekend for the annual ministerial meeting of the Central Treaty Organisation, said: "If a country is our good friend and ally we shall continue supplying it with arms."

JORDAN TIMES

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New Israeli troop concentrations reported along Lebanese border

BEIRUT, May 17 (J.T. & Agencies). — New Israeli troop concentrations have appeared at various points along the sensitive Lebanese-Israeli border, according to reports reaching here from the south.

Soldiers are massed in particular in the central border area adjacent to Marjayoun and Qleia, the reports added.

Informed sources in the area predict that Israel will launch a military operation in the coming days. They see this as a possible move to sow discord between the Arab peace-keeping force and the leftist-Palestinian alliance.

The reports indicate that Israeli aviation has been active in Lebanese air space over the last few days, in particular over areas where the Arab peace-keeping forces are stationed and over border villages controlled by the leftist-Palestinian alliance.

Israeli patrol boats have simultaneously intensified their routine patrols along the Lebanese coast from Naqura in the south to Sidon, the sources continue.

Observers are now once more directing their attention towards the south after Syrian President Hafez Assad met U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Observers note the possibility that the four-party supervisory truce committee, set up last year to supervise the ceasefire in Lebanon, will resume its work to implement the 1969 Cairo agreement governing relations between Palestinian co-

mmando groups and the Lebanese government.

Sources close to Lebanese government say that this week will witness intense activity to overcome obstacles facing the implementation of the Cairo agreement and to prevent developments which could influence the delicate Lebanese situation.

Meanwhile Defence Ministry sources said here today that about 20 per cent of Lebanon's officer corps had offered to resign under a three-month army rebuilding scheme which ended at midnight.

They said that former army commander Maj-Gen. Hanna Saad was among the 194 of the country's 945 officers who submitted resignations under the terms of a special decree aimed at rebuilding the army.

Seventeen brigadiers and 48 colonels followed Gen. Saad on the resignation list. Under the special decree, the government need not accept all the resignations offered and, also, in the next three months, may suspend any officer not on the list.

In a separate development, a generally well-informed Palestinian source said here today that Palestinian commander leader Abu Saleh escaped an assassination attempt on Saturday in the southern town of Nabatiyeh.

But the Palestinian news agency Wafa denied that any such attempt had taken place, saying that Abu Saleh, as a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Central Council, was attending its in-

augural session in Damascus on Saturday.

He returned from Damascus to Beirut only yesterday, Wafa said.

An employee in Abu Saleh's office here today refused to comment on the report.

He said that Abu Saleh, a military chief who is also a member of the Central Committee of the largest Palestinian commando group, Fateh, was in excellent health.

The Palestinian source, who spoke to Reuters after the original report -- published yesterday by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) -- said four bullets had been fired at Abu Saleh on Saturday in Nabatiyeh, but he had not been hit.



HELPED TO CAST VOTE -- An old Arab woman, using a stick to walk, is helped by a voting official to cast her vote in the Arab village of Tira during Tuesday's Israeli elections. (AP wirephoto).

Upon visiting camp near Paris

Nimeiri hints he may buy French arms

SATORY, France, May 17 (AFP). — Visiting Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri today hinted that he intended to buy French arms after watching a display of hardware at the military camp here, just outside Paris.

President Nimeiri, accompanied by French Defence Minister Yvon Bourges, toured the camp on the second day of his three-day official visit to France. He was later scheduled to return to Paris for meetings with Arab ambassadors.

to France and the Sudanese community.

The Sudanese leader watched manoeuvres by a variety of amphibious, all-purpose armoured vehicles, armoured tanks and half-tracks.

"The presentation was very positive. We notice significant progress in the technological field, mainly with respect to infantry equipment," said Gen. Nimeiri.

Although he did not say explicitly that he would buy French arms, he said that he was moving in that direction. "Earlier, at a press conference, Gen. Nimeiri stressed that the purchase of arms was not the main objective of his visit."

"We are for dialogue and peace. We used to have Soviet arms but they (the Soviet) have stopped their shipments. We have no other choice than to look elsewhere for arms to ensure our defense," he said.

Gen. Nimeiri also used his news conference to launch an appeal for international backing for the Eritrean liberation movement and made strong attacks on the Ethiopian government.

"We declare solemnly that we are and will be on the side of the Eritrean cause and the right of the Eritrean people to self-determination," he said.

He said he regretted that the Ethiopian government had now fallen under the influence of the Soviet Union.

Asked about the Soviet role in the Libyan Jamahiriya (formerly Libya), Gen. Nimeiri said the Russians now had sophisticated arms and material at their disposal in that country which they could use at any moment against other nations, notably those in the region.

Gen. Nimeiri, said Sudan's objective in the Red Sea and Horn of Africa region was to create a zone of peace and security, free from the hegemony of the super-powers and international conflicts.

Gen. Nimeiri congratulated France for the "wise way" in which it was leading the Red Sea territory of Djibouti to independence and transferring power "to the Djibouti people. This had put it beyond the danger of civil war, he said.

NATO ministers agree to up defence spending 3%

BRUSSELS, May 17 (R). — NATO defence ministers agreed today that all 15 member states of the alliance should aim at increasing their defence budgets by a minimum of three per cent in real terms.

They were responding to President Carter's call for greater defence spending by the alliance.

Informed NATO sources said the ministers also agreed to accept plans for major improvements in the alliance's defence posture, put forward today by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown.

The sources said the decisions reflected the alliance's concern over the steady buildup of Soviet armed forces over the past several years.

However, they noted that the agreement did not commit the alliance countries to achieving the three per cent target for increased defence spending.

The ministers accepted a long-term programme put forward by Mr. Brown to solve the alliance's most pressing problems. This would include stepping up the combat readiness of NATO's frontline troops, strengthening its electronic warfare capabilities and improving its sea power and air defences.

In addition, the defence mini-

sters agreed with a call by Mr. Brown for a series of improvements to be carried out in the next year. The U.S. defence secretary listed an increase in anti-tank weaponry in north Germany and a buildup of war supplies in Europe generally as high-priority aims.

West German Defence Minister Georg Leber said three per cent was not a rigid figure. "There can be a margin of difference from country to country," he told reporters.

He said the decisions taken today should be seen as a sign to the Soviet Union to hold down its own military build-up. "If parity cannot be obtained by agreement, then there can be no alternative to going on spending," he said.

Informed sources said Britain believed that the three per cent aim would not come into effect until 1979.

The British also felt that member states with stronger economies should contribute more to the NATO improvement plan than the economically weaker members.

The sources said that the Americans wanted a gesture showing that the alliance was prepared to add to its muscle and the three per cent target should be viewed in this context.

British envoy launches new Anglo-U.S. plan for Rhodesia

LUSAKA, May 17 (R). — A British special envoy arrived in Southern Africa today to launch a new Anglo-American initiative aimed at a peaceful transfer of power to the blacks in Rhodesia.

The envoy, Mr. John Graham, flew into Zomba, a haven for the alert after being put in "a state of war" with the Rhodesian white minority rulers.

Mr. Graham said today Britain had told Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Premier, that it

would "deplore any armed escalation by him or anybody in Rhodesia."

Mr. Graham is head of an Anglo-American consultative group which will talk to black and white leaders in Southern Africa. He is here to see Dr.

At a brief news conference Mr. Graham said "clearly anything that embitters the situation, and an escalation of the war would carry increasing bitterness, would make my task difficult."

Carter threatens S. Africa over Namibia

LOS ANGELES, May 17 (R). — President Carter said today that unless South Africa acted to end white rule in Namibia, it would face "strong action" by the United States and four other Western powers in the United Nations. Appearing on a television interview show here, Mr. Carter said the United States had gained the support of West Germany, Britain, France and Canada in endorsing such a stand on Namibia (Southwest Africa), the territory run by South Africa under a disputed U.N. mandate.

Computers forecast Likud victory over Labour at the polls

TEL AVIV, May 17 (R). — Computers of Israeli national television forecast tonight that the rightwing Likud opposition bloc will emerge from Israel's general elections today as the country's largest party with 44 seats in the 120-seat Knesset.

The Labour Party will get 32 seats instead of the 51 that it now holds, according to the television computer predictions, based on a survey of voters at selected polling stations.

The newly-founded Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) will get 16 seats and the National Religious Party (NRP) will get 11, according to the same calculations.

Israeli television broadcast its predictions as soon as polling ended but warned that the figures were not based on

actual results which were still not known.

LABOUR ADMITS DEFEAT

The Israeli Labour Party early Wednesday admitted defeat in the general election, Israeli Television reported quoting a party spokesman.

An estimated 500,000 of the 2.2 million eligible voters were believed to be still uncommitted before the polls opened.

The group which gains the largest number of votes will be asked by President Ephraim Kazar to form a new government -- a process which could drag on for weeks.

Since neither Labour nor Likud appeared likely to win the 61 seats needed for a parliamentary majority in the 120-seat Knesset, it was widely expected that protracted negotiations with smaller parties on a coalition government would follow today's vote.

The DMC has made clear that it would join either of the two major parties in a coalition if it entered it on its terms for a constitutional change in Israeli voting laws.

Foreign affairs have not been the major issue of the campaign which has been marked by

a barrage of criticism against the Labour government for not dealing with inflation and bureaucracy.

The polls were open today from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. First partial results were expected around 2 a.m. and nearly-complete results by 7 a.m. Wednesday.

But if the result is very close, it could hinge on ballots cast by troops, which might not be tallied until late Wednesday afternoon.

The central elections committee said it expected that well over 80 per cent of the voters would cast their ballots.

During the day, voters were turning out at a slower rate than in previous elections but officials expected heavy polling to the evening as many thousands of Israelis returned from holiday excursions to the beaches and forests.

An explosive charge went off in Nablus, largest town in the occupied West Bank, but caused no casualties or damage, security sources said.

The West Bank was sealed off from Israel proper. Arab workers and visitors were not allowed into Israel from the area during the voting period. Police said this was a security precaution against possible trouble as voters gathered at polling stations.

USSR expects new U.S. initiative on SALT

GENEVA, May 17 (R). — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said tonight the Kremlin was ready to do anything in its power to bring about a new Strategic Arms Limitation talks (SALT) agreement with the United States that went "in the correct direction."

He made his comment on arrival in Geneva from Moscow for a new round of SALT talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Mr. Gromyko also indicated, however, that the Soviet Union expected any new initiative to come from the Americans.

The talks begin tomorrow,

to try for a breakthrough in the superpowers' current deadlock in the search for a comprehensive agreement to limit nuclear weapons.

Mr. Gromyko told reporters: "I would not like to guess at the possible results or the possible outcome of our discussions. It is a complicated problem."

"But I would like to say on behalf of the Soviet Union, the Soviet people and the Soviet leadership that we, the Soviet Union, have done and will do everything to move the agreement forward, so that the difficulties are overcome in a correct direction."

New Yorkers demand lasting ban on helicopter shuttle services

NEW YORK, May 17 (R). — Protest groups today demanded a lasting ban on helicopter shuttle services into New York after a helicopter toppled over on a skyscraper landing pad killing five people.

Mayor Abraham Beame suspended all flights by New York Airways, operators of the helicopter shuttles, pending an inquiry by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) into yesterday's accident.

The Sikorsky S-61 helicopter toppled over atop the Pan Am building seconds after landing there. Whirling rotor blades scoured the surface of the roof sending wreckage into the streets far below.

Four people were cut to pie-

ces by the blades and a woman on her way home from work died in the street.

New York Airways said the rotor blades were not stopped between flights partly for safety reasons. "The rotors are a stabilising force if you have wind gusts," a spokesman said.

New York Airways only resumed helicopter flights between the city's airports and the Pan Am building last January after a nine-year halt for economic reasons and concern about the possibility of accidents.

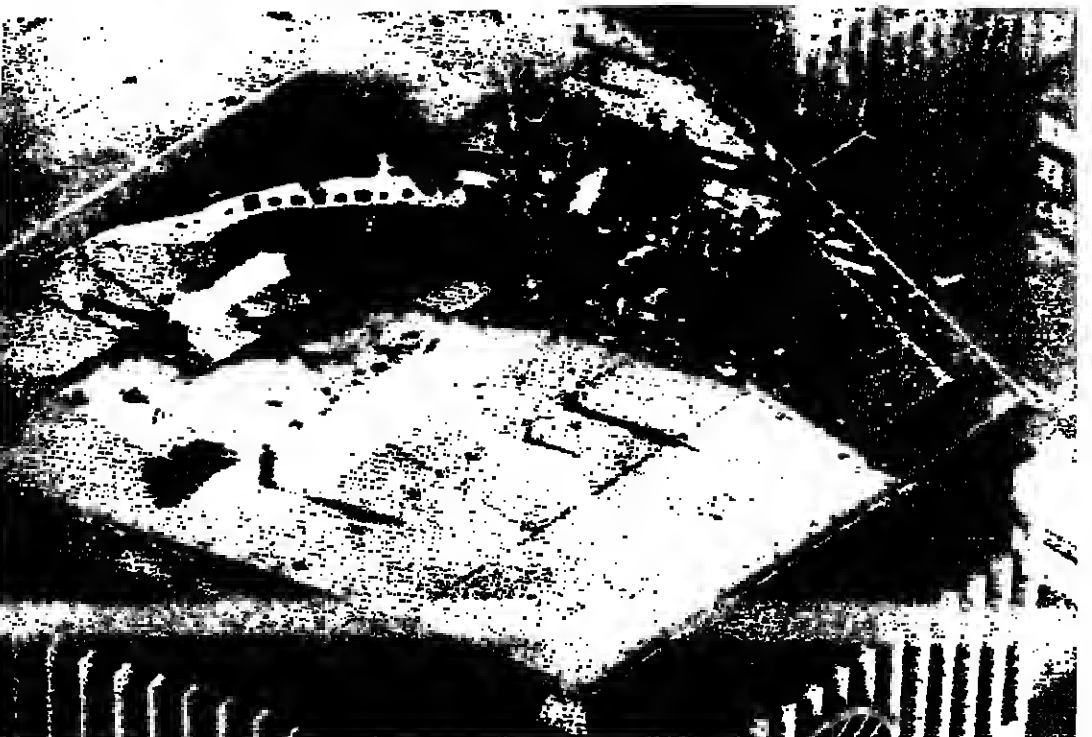
Spokesmen for community groups said today they would fight to prevent the helicopter service to the Pan Am building

ever being allowed to resume. Erik Strapper of the Turtle Bay Association, which includes residents living near United Nations headquarters on Manhattan's east side, said of the crash: "This need not have happened."

"Why is it necessary to land one of these things in the most heavily populated area in the world?" he asked.

In a Manhattan cigar store, one man said he was going to catch the flight that crashed but decided to "get the next one because it was my birthday and my friends convinced me to have another drink."

"They said 'what's your hurry' and that saved my life," he said.



OVER A SKYSCRAPER -- Rescue workers and firemen swarmed about a New York Airways helicopter tipped over on the roof of the 59-story Pan Am building in Midtown, New York, Monday.



DAY VIGIL -- A leftist fighter in south Lebanon monitors Israeli troop activity on the other side of the border Monday.

Opening Islamic conference

Qadhafi demonstrates new facet of his policy on minority groups

UPOLI, May 17 (R). — Lib- n Leader Muammar Qadhafi, o is host to the Islamic fo- gn ministers' conference he- had delegates talking today out what some of them saw e new element in his policy ards minority movements.

He provoked the special in- est with his remarks about Philippines and Ethiopia his opening address to the ek-long conference last bt.

On both subjects he appea- to avoid being too pply involved in controversy. e told the delegates from countries "we did our best avoid the war" between the lippines government and slem rebels in the south the country.

ut the agreement between m, achieved after the Lib- leader's mediation, had br- n down. Now it is for the Moro Na- al Liberation Front and the ernment of the Philippines face their problem," he ed.

e recalled that his country in the past helped Eritre- secessionists fighting to ga- heir homeland's independence from Ethiopia.

ut he pointed out that was n they were fighting the regime of the late Emperor ie Selassie. Since then there a new situation and the lution had brought justice equality to all Ethiopians. alking privately in the lob- outside the hall some gates saw his defence of a nment fighting a secessi- t movement as a new fa- of his policy on minority ps.

The problems of Moslem minorities in a number of co- untries have already come up since the conference opened last night, most of them in Col. Qadhafi's own speech.

When the meeting began ta- cking its 61-point agenda today one of the first speakers was Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash.

He called on Moslem coun- tries to support his community's bid to ensure equal rights with Greek Cypriots and declared that Greece wanted to turn the island into a Greek and a Christian land.

There are several other Mo- slem minority movements wait- ing in the wings hoping for a hearing, including Moslem rebels from southern Thailand.

Three countries -- Egypt, Sudan and Iran -- are boyco- tting the meeting. Their absence was one of the main talking points at a closed session of the confere- nce today, conference sources said.

Delegates debated whether to send the three countries mes- sages urging them to change their minds and join the ga- thering.

Col. Qadhafi told delegates yesterday that Egypt did not stay away because of political differences with Tripoli.

"The reason for this abse- nce is more dangerous. Egypt is under the domination of the U.S., which is going to build a Christian University in Egypt. This is very demerous ac- tion because it will lead to civil war in Egypt where the Christians are treated as the equals of the Moslems."

A special daily newspaper brought out for the conference, Islamic Solidarity, compared the gathering to a family, and remarked: "If one member of this family has a quarrel with another, this should in no way be a reason for the break up of the family."

Col. Qadhafi's relations with both Egypt and Sudan are po- or, and each has accused him of interfering in its internal affairs.

The friendly relations betw- een Tripoli and Addis Ababa are another part of the regio- al alignments in which Col. Qadhafi finds himself -- along with the Soviet Union -- on the side opposed to the Eritre- an secessionists, whose hig- est outside support comes from Sudan, Syria and Iraq.

Col. Qadhafi was careful in his speech not to be openly hostile to the Eritreans, say- ing he did not object to their demands for independence, and noting that they regarded them- selves as Arabs.

He told the conference it should be very careful in deal- ing with the Eritrean question as there were more Moslems than Christians in Ethiopia, while Moslems were in the mi- nority in Eritrea.

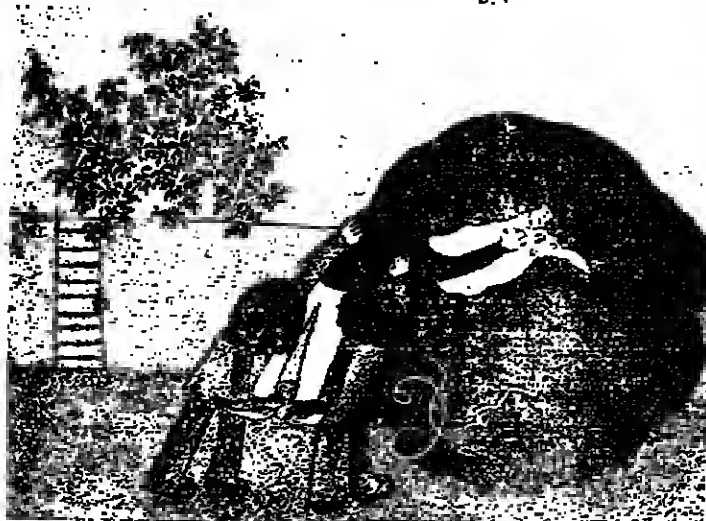
Little has been said here ab- out Iran's absence, but the Sh- ah and the Libyan leader are not the best of friends.

Outside the hotel where jou- rnalists and representatives of minority groups are staying there are posters in support of the Democratic Revoluti- onary Movement for the Libe- ration of Arabstan, an Iranian province inhabited by Arabs.

The charm of poetic Paris works its spell in Amman

matched charm of Paris -- whether with its greyish or its whitened appearance of the Parisian sixties -- still works on everybody. You see it in Amman in a number of lithographs in colours by a Canadian artist, Lyse Casanova. The exhibition opened at the French Cultural Centre this morning and will last a week.

Lyse Casanova, who has been in Jordan since the late 1960s, has been working on her Parisian theme for some time. She has exhibited her work several times. Her work is dominated by a cheerful mood, her creations are in humorous conceptual style, full of everyday life. Her exhibition is, in a way, an invitation to stroll in a wonderful world, a world of great pictorial sensitivity, which at the same time contains something naive and deep. With sharp intelligence and an attractive style, she has the knack of putting her point across instantly. Lyse Casanova can metamorphose the massive walls of Paris into delicate shapes, as if she were a lace-maker.



Something naive and something deep.

A Young And Careless Look

All her works are delicate and full of joy. Her pictorial world is inhabited by personal illusions and a fresh approach regarding the selection of significant and eloquent details. She has succeeded in giving to Paris a young and careless look.

When you see her very decorative drawings, you immediately think of that French film: "Everybody is beautiful, everybody is nice" (Tout le monde est beau, tout le monde est gentil). For instance, "Le Pont Neuf" seen by Casanova seems to pop out from a fairy tale. For her the traffic jam is nothing more than a bunch of brightly coloured, childish cars hung nicely on a tree.

There is also "Place de Furstenberg", "The Country House", "The Inhabited Sun", "Le Café Saint Apollinaire", "La Brasserie Lipp". The intellectual and graceful places of Paris. A total of 20 water colours and 50 lithographs bear her name. Lyse Casanova is a person who likes to dream and who likes her environment to be happy, so for her Paris is an eternal and swinging feast.

Planning committees hold meetings in Syria

DAMASCUS, May 17 (JNA). — A meeting of the sub-committee of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee for Planning and Development began here Tuesday.

The strategy committee debated implementation of proposed joint development strategies. Aims were agreed upon at previous meetings. The committee for the evaluation of development projects will complete the last appendices of a book on the subject.

Meanwhile, two Jordanian National Planning Council officials, Dr. Mohammad Suwaidan and Akram Qarmoul, gave a joint lecture on industry and industrialisation in Jordan. They stressed the importance of gross national product, which rose from nine per cent in 1963 to 15 per cent in 1975.

Yarmouk ties with British universities discussed

IRBID (JNA). — The possibility of cooperation between Yarmouk University and British universities and scientific and cultural institutions was discussed when the British ambassador to Jordan, Mr. John Moberly, accompanied by the director of the British Council and a number of embassy officials, visited the university here Tuesday.

The University President, Dr. Adnan Badran, explained at length the achievements and future plans of the university. The ambassador presented a set of important scientific books to the university library. The group later toured faculties, laboratories and the library.

ROADS CLOSE FOR ARMY REHEARSALS

AMMAN (JNA). — Traffic on a number of roads will be diverted on Wednesday and Friday while the army rehearses for Silver Jubilee, Independence and Army Day, the Directorate of Public Security announced Tuesday.

Directorate sources said the diversion of traffic will take place as follows:

On Wednesday, May 18, traffic will be diverted from 5 a.m. until 1 p.m. from the Suweileh to the Sports City crossroads for cars coming from Amman. Cars leaving Amman for Suweileh will take the road parallel to the University of Jordan Hospital, then on to the main road.

On Friday, May 20, traffic will be diverted from 5 a.m. until 12 noon from the Suweileh cross-roads to the Civil Defence Building via the Sports City road and Interior Ministry circle. The whole street will be closed.

Agriculture accord signed with W. Germany

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan and West Germany Tuesday signed memoranda dealing with agricultural consultative services. Under the memos, the West German government will appoint at its expense an agricultural economics consultant to work with the Ministry of Agriculture for two years as part of West German support for agricultural projects in the five-year plan.

The memos were signed for Jordan by Minister of Agriculture Salah Juma and for West Germany by its Ambassador in Amman, Dr. Horst Schmidt-Dorleiden.

JORDANIANS WORKING ABROAD BOOST ACCOUNTS BY JD 11.5 m

AMMAN (JNA). — The accounts of Jordanians working abroad rose by JD 11,501,000 in the first quarter of the year as against the same period last year.

Sources at the Central Bank said the increase is indicative of confidence in the banking system and the economic prosperity Jordan is now enjoying. The sources said the accounts of Jordanians working abroad totalled JD 17,634,000 in the first quarter of this year as against JD 6,133,000 in the first quarter of last year.

OUT ON MANOEUVRE



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan attends exercises carried out by the Fifth Royal Armoured Division Tuesday morning. The manoeuvres were attended by the military adviser to His Majesty King Hussein and a number of senior officers. (JNA photos).



Commerce meet-discusses Arab boycott of Israel

DAMASCUS, May 17 (JNA). — A conference of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture debated the second working paper put forward by the Jordanian delegation on the Arab boycott of Israel at its meeting here Tuesday.

The paper dealt with the Zionist campaign to mislead opinion on the Arab boycott. The

paper also condemned recent measures imposing financial sanctions on companies adhering to boycott laws and regulations.

The working paper further called for the opening of boycott bureaus in all developing countries, particularly Islamic ones, and mobilisation against economic dealings with Israel.

Finally, the working paper recommended that a production chart be worked out to augment Arab export capabilities so as to compete with Israel in its export markets abroad.

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NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a message of congratulation to President Nicolae Ceausescu for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

* AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives the credentials of the new Saudi Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ibrahim Al Sultan.

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Study group predicts crippling energy shortage before this century's end

THE HAGUE, May 17 (R). — The non-communist world is likely to face a crippling energy shortage before the end of the century despite conservation efforts and a search for new fuels, an international expert study group predicted today.

The bleak forecast by a group of 35 businessmen, government officials and specialists was coupled with an urgent call for action to meet a probable crisis in the years after 1985.

"There is no time to waste. There is no place to hide. There is no way to do it alone," the report warned.

The group's central prediction is of an annual oil shortage rising to between 15 and 20 million barrels a day by the year 2000 — the equivalent of consumption today in the United States.

The 291-page study, presented today to government leaders around the world including President Jimmy Carter, was coordinated by Professor Carroll L. Wilson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Dutch participants in the group presented a copy of the report "Energy: global prospects 1985-2000" to economics minister Roud Lubbers at a press conference.

Professor Wilson, in comments released here, said: "The

free world must drastically curtail the growth of use of energy and move massively out of oil into other fuels with wartime urgency. Otherwise, we face foreseeable catastrophe."

In predicting an inevitable oil shortage, the report said supply would fail to meet continually rising demand some time between 1985 and 1995 even if the price per barrel rose 50 per cent in real terms.

Demand for oil would rise by between 2.1 per cent and 2.9 per cent a year, depending on the speed of world economic growth, and would double by the year 2000, the experts predicted.

But key oil production states such as Saudi Arabia were likely to start limiting their production in a few years time because oil in the ground

would be more valuable than dollars which they cannot spend.

The workshop predicted that if Saudi Arabia limited production to the current level of nine million barrels a day, the crisis for the non-communist world would come between 1981 and 1983.

Dutch experts, presenting the report at a press conference, said the workshop had left aside the communist world from most of its calculations, but it was possible that Soviet Bloc demand for oil imports might make the situation worse.

The report cast doubt on whether coal, nuclear power and other new sources of energy could effectively fill the gap once oil supplies became scarce.

The report said there could

well be a coal surplus because of resistance to what it described as "dirty, awkward stuff to distribute and use."

Nuclear power, which at the moment gives the non-communist world two per cent of its energy, could bear a maximum of 20 per cent of the energy load in the year 2000, but this would need a rapid expansion of capacity.

Natural gas reserves in industrialised consumer nations were running out, and costly transport would hinder access to the larger reserves held by oil-producing states in the Middle East.

Other sources of energy, from the sun, wind, water, oil shale and oil sands were likely to meet only about 10 per cent of the world's appetite by the end of the century, the report said.

President Carter's show at London summit meeting impressed Europeans

PARIS, May 17 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter appears to have impressed Europeans at last week's London Summit meetings of major non-communist powers, in the opinion of those who followed the talks.

Prudence, moderation, balance, knowledge of dossiers, speaking ability or compliments have not been scarce, and French President Giscard d'Estaing has not been the most sparing.

A propensity to seek out the advice of his colleagues from the old world, always flattering, could be added to the list of virtues — but that will not last long, some observers believe.

In a word, the "European show" put on by the U.S. president four months after taking office appears to have been a success. Some of his colleagues found in him the charm, authority, and the "presence" of a John Kennedy.

The most interesting lesson to be drawn from the London meetings — an economic summit, a NATO conference and four-sided talks on Berlin and relations with the East — was the broad outline of Mr. Carter's thinking on Europe.

I. The need to maintain the U.S. military presence in Europe as a result, among other

things, of what Mr. Carter called the uninterrupted growth of Warsaw Pact forces. Predictable, this decision was nevertheless not a foregone conclusion when the chief executive took office. It introduces a measure of confidence in members of the Atlantic Alliance, notably in West Germany.

As equally interesting indication — this one an innovation — was the president's pledge to seek every occasion to buy European military hardware whenever such purchases would lead to a more efficient use of the alliance's resources.

Sources close to the European arms industry, including French specialists, noted the declaration with interest, but no doubt remained skeptical about it in the light of past experience.

2. The conviction, expressed in a recent interview with the Paris newspaper *Le Monde*, that a strong Europe was indispensable for the future of the United States.

Though it might be argued that such a statement does not mean much since Europe is not about to begin speaking "with a single voice" at major political and economic summits, observers nevertheless point out it represents a change in tone from the recent past when former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger rejected anything more than a "region-

al" role for the European Community.

There again, President Carter appears to have wanted to reassure Europeans on their own fate. He is "betting" on the ability of the present governing coalition to hold on to power in France and on the survival of the delicate political balance new struck in Italy.

But he knows that he must envision a possible "skidding" of these two countries toward new political horizons, and a possible chill in relations with Germany over the export of nuclear technology.

Thus, after contacts with several socialist and communist figures from France and Italy — contacts that surprised French government circles — the U.S. administration is finding new virtues in the double credo of faith in the Atlantic Alliance paired with support for "liberal" societies in Western Europe.

3. Lastly, in playing down his human rights drive in London, President Carter has drawn nearer to European positions on the matter, notably those of France and Germany.

The United States will go to the Belgrade Conference not on crusade for individual liberties in Eastern Europe and not in a spirit of confrontation, the president said. Soviet reactions have shown it could be dangerous to "rock the boat" too strong, too soon.

Cape Verdians fight drought with foreign aid

PRAIA, Cape Verde Islands, May 17 (AFP). — It has not rained in Sao Nicolau for 12 years.

Most of the islanders have emigrated to join the estimated 450,000 Cape Verdians working in Europe, the U.S., Brazil and on the African mainland.

Drought is a recurrent problem in this former Portuguese colony which French Cooperation Minister Robert Galley will visit this week. The population of this nine-island Atlantic group — 500 kms. (300 miles) from Dakar — still has vivid memories of the great drought of 1947-48 in which more than 30,000 people died.

Since the Archipelago became independent in July 1975, the government has set out to prove that drought with its side effects of famine and soil erosion is not inevitable.

With American aid, 3,000 terraced irrigation ditches have been dug in the mountains of

Santiago Island while the West Germans have financed a system of irrigation pumps on the volcanic island of Fogo.

The French are working on a programme to exploit the deep waters off Sao Nicolau, and on Santo Antao the Dutch are helping develop the deep valleys for agriculture.

Dams have been constructed across a valley of sand and palm trees in Boa Vista with Swiss aid. Although Swiss aid is harder than most to obtain the Cape Verde government has apparently had no problem because of the down-to-

earth character of its programme involving simple and immediately feasible projects. Cape Verde has also resisted the temptation to ask for more aid than it can reasonably absorb — absorption being rendered difficult by a lop-sided trade balance and a deliberately restricted budget.

This year's budget will however ask for more foreign aid. In this context, one problem facing the government is that many countries or donor organisations prefer to put their money into agricultural develop-

ment whereas Cape Verde mainly counts on industry for its future prosperity.

Agriculture, however, is a priority sector in mainland Guinea Bissau with which Cape Verde is linked politically and economically. Both countries are governed by the same party, the PAIGC African Party for the Independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde — and their economies are geared towards complementarity.

A flexible type of union between the two countries is being envisaged.

Soviets look into the value of privately-owned property

MOSCOW, May 17 (AFP).

Privately-owned plots of land are still of major importance in supplying the Soviet Union's food needs, according to a recent campaign on behalf of small land holdings. The influential *Literaturnaya Gazeta* (Literary Gazette), journal of the Soviet Writers' Union, has just opened discussion on the issue with a full page in its latest issue devoted to the defence of private plots.

The report, called "Letters from the land", dates from 1970 to 1971, but *Literaturnaya Gazeta* stressed that the subject remained topical.

In it, author Vladimir Travinsky deplored the "undervaluation" of the importance of private plots. "Lack of comprehension of their role is still noticeable", he wrote, because the holdings have been accused of "encouraging petit-bourgeois instincts."

The latest official statistics, the journal said, showed that private plots represented only 1.5 per cent of cultivated land in the Soviet Union but had 18 per cent of ovine livestock, 18 per cent of swine, and 22 per cent of bovine livestock.

The figure for milk products is especially significant, with 33 per cent of Soviet cows grazing on private plots of land.

The literary gazette's insistence on livestock is especially understandable given the current problems in meat supplies. There have been com-

plaints from the populace in many areas, including Moscow where restaurants observe a weekly "fish day". Shortages are almost as acute in fruits and vegetables.

In support of its defence of private plots, *Literaturnaya Gazeta* cited an October 1976 statement by Soviet Communist Party Chief Leonid Brezhnev, who said that "suppression of agricultural production on private plots is premature. More attention must be given them."

Deputy Agricultural Minister Zia Nureyev also took up their defence, citing in the April 28 issue of *Pravda*, the Communist Party Daily, another statement by Mr. Brezhnev and adding: "Personal farming provides a not-negligible share of potatoes and market-garden (truck) farm products."

"Local authorities should be flexible and ensure the correct proportion of collective production and individual production", Mr. Nureyev went on.

A few days earlier, *Agricultural Life* published a letter from the head of a kolhoz (collective farm) in Cherkassk, the Ukraine, noting that the kolhoz's population had not decreased in recent years but that private ownership of swine and cattle had.

An official of the local executive committee endorsed the kolhoz leader's protest, saying that in many areas, "on various pretexts" the private

plots were "in fact liquidated. It was impossible" to support that action, he added.

At about the same time, the First Deputy Agriculture Minister of Kazakhstan, Nurali Kletsov, wrote in *Kazakhstan's Pravda*: "I can understand that people are bothered when they go to buy milk, a shop when they could buy a cow."

Writing in response to a league of the kolhoz leaders, Mr. Kletsov did not go so far as to support a suggestion that the law forbidding families to own more than a cow be changed, but he did not dismiss the suggestion either.

Supporters of private plots ask that the collective farms help them more, especially in supplying the necessary machinery — again, the issue of meat supplies. Several articles also urged increased production of the small-scale equipment used on such plots.

Such appeals, which are beginning to resemble a systematic campaign, have met some resistance, however. On May 14, *Pravda* published a warning against using private plots "for speculative ends."

The daily affirmed that private-owned land "cannot be used for inordinate profits" and noted that development of private ownership was "concomitant with the very nature of our socialist system," as outlined at the 25th party congress.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	140.0	140.4
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	131.0	131.4
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.3	93.5
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.2
Syrian pound	81.0	81.3
Iraqi dinar	947.0	958.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,146.0	1,150.0
Egyptian pound	480.0	465.0
Libyan dinar	760.0	770.0
UAE dirham	84.6	85.0

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market Monday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One dollar	2.3570/80	West German marks
	2.4550/65	Dutch guilders
	2.5210/20	Swiss francs
	36.140/155	Belgian francs
	4.9533/43	French francs
	886.25/45	Italian lire
	277.50/60	Japanese yen
	4.3600/10	Swedish crowns
	5.2705/800	Norwegian crowns
	6.0175/90	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices managed a slight advance on the New York stock exchange Tuesday, where the industrial average put on a satisfactory three points in steady trading.

At the close, the Industrial average shows at 936.48, a gain of 3.08 points; Transp at 243.72, a gain of 0.61; utilities at 111.39, a gain of 0.32. 22,290,000 shares changed hands.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Government stocks held earlier rises in buying interest after news yesterday of a floating rate bond to be issued by the government shortly, dealers said. Long dated loans closed as much as 1-1/2 points higher while shorts gained 1/8 to 3/8.

Leading industrials finished little changed to a shade firmer after earlier gains of several pence had been pared as initial buying interest faded, dealers added. At 15:00 the F.T. index was up 1.5 at 468.2.

Mining shares eased despite the steady gold bullion prices, while Australians tended generally firmer. Canadians were little changed.

ICI closed around a penny higher after being 5p firmer in early trading and rises of around 4p to 6p in other leaders were generally trimmed to a penny or so, dealers said.

But closed at the day's high, up 7p and gains of 2p to 5p were scored by Fisons, Glaxo, Hawker, EMI and Beecham.

Cavenham was requested around 132 on news of the partial bid from Generale Occidentale, after being suspended at 140p on Friday and the share price edged a penny higher during the day.

Price of gold closed in London Tuesday at \$147.80/oz.

Inflation hurt Britain's poor the most last year

LONDON, May 17 (AFP). — The poor lost out most from inflation in Britain last year, an official inquiry team's figures showed today.

The reason was that the least well off families spend a higher proportion of their money on basic necessities, and it is these that went up most in price.

The 10 per cent lowest paid Britons last year saw prices go up 17.8 per cent for their

purchases whereas the increase was 16.6 per cent for the higher paid.

In particular, food last year went up 23.5 per cent while the overall price index rose 16.6 per cent. Individual rises included vegetables 37 per cent, beverages like tea and coffee 36 per cent, fish and dairy items 25 per cent.

The figures were by a group reporting to a royal commission on wealth structures.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* WASHINGTON, May 17 (R). — The U.S. House of Representatives voted yesterday to reduce personal and company taxes by more than \$20 billion during the next 16 months. The measure — a stripped-down version of President Carter's tax cut proposals — goes to the Senate for expected final congressional action. The bill does not contain the president's requested \$50 individual tax rebate or improved investment tax credit for business, which were dropped at Mr. Carter's request when the economy showed signs of improving.

* LONDON, May 17 (AFP). — The total cost of last month's blowout at the Bravo platform of the Ekofisk oil field in the North Sea could come to just under \$10 million, the Daily Times reported today. The paper said the impact of the accident on the London insurance market would be fairly limited because the Bravo platform was insured to the extent of 85 per cent by the Bermuda-based company Oil Insurance Ltd., belonging to the Italian Agip Oil Group, the Norwegian Group Norsk Hydro and the Belgian Petrofina Group.

* TOKYO, May 17 (R). — Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda said that the world's economic difficulties were greater than those of the 1930s. "This is because we now have the differences between East and West and North and South as well as the problem of oil," he said at a reception he gave for 300 newspaper publishers attending an international conference here. "Compared to the 1930s the world is now facing even greater difficulties in the economic field," he stated. The new difficulties meant that cooperation between free countries was extremely important.

* TOKYO, May 17 (R). — Japan has asked Nigeria to help hold down any possible increase in crude oil prices by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which would affect the flagging world economy, Japanese officials said today. Col. Buhari, Nigeria's Petroleum and Energy Commissioner, said the organisation's oil price would be decided in the light of the world economy.

* OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 17 (R). — Israel and Greece have signed an agreement here for cooperation in science, culture and education, foreign ministry officials said today. The two-year agreement called for the exchange of scientists, strengthening ties among research teams and institutions of both countries and the trading of know-how in various other fields.

Ridicule won't get rid of UFOs

Those flying saucers — Unidentified Flying Objects in official parlance — exist and ridicule is not going to make them go off. So decided the UFOlogists at their international conference which has just ended in Mexico.

ACAPULCO, (Gemin). — Whatever the explanation for them, Unidentified Flying Objects exist — and ridicule is not going to make them go away. Such was the main conclusion of what was claimed to be the biggest-ever international UFO conference, which has just ended in Acapulco, Mexico.

The conference marked something of a watershed in the history of UFOlogy, as devotees said the science. The subject, said the experts, has passed from the realms of ridicule and cartoons to a degree of serious acceptance. The problem now is to urge national and international authorities to devote greater efforts to solving the phenomenon.

With this end in mind, the conference endorsed a call by Sir Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of the Caribbean Island of Grenada, for the United Nations to set up some sort of psychic research institute to look into the Bermuda Triangle — an area of the Caribbean where ships and planes have disappeared mysteriously — and related problems such as UFOs. Sir Eric offered Grenada as the site for another international conference to act as a follow-up to Acapulco, probably in 1979.

Scientists and others interested in the subject claim the world cannot see the wood for the trees — that the signs are all there if we interpret them correctly. But the trees themselves are suspicious. Inevitably, UFOlogy attracts more than its fair share of cranks, and

many of the theories on the existence of UFOs drift into wild speculation though retaining a degree of credibility. Most experts on the subject (who include a liberal sprinkling of scientists and astrophysicists) agreed that the evidence of UFO sightings was overwhelming.

But their explanations varied from the popular extra-terrestrial theory that the UFOs come from other planets) to parapsychology (according to which there is a parallel universe capable of materialising in ours) to arguments that Einstein's theory of relativity may need revising.

There is also a personality clash between those who present themselves as scientists and investigators and those who have had UFO experiences and bring to the subject the fervour of revivalists of a fanatical religious cult.

The theme of UFOs as the new religion is likely to be heard a lot this year: A new film spectacular on flying saucers directed by the director of the all-time box office smash "Jaws" is to be released in the U.S. later in the year.

The theme given most coverage in Acapulco was that of extra-terrestrial visitations. "The odds are overwhelmingly in favour of the existence of life elsewhere — but not necessarily life as we know it," said American astrophysicist Dr. Allen Hynek.

But, warned Dr. Hynek, "the problem is much more complex than we first thought; we used to think the explanation must be extra-terrestrial or nothing — that's rubbish. And our basic assumption was that we were looking for life as we knew it, connected to flesh and blood."

Now, says Dr. Hynek, UFOlogy is forcing its way into the ranks of accepted sciences virtually by a process of osmosis, as did acupuncture. But appeals for aid to further scientific research by organisations such as Dr. Hynek's own centre for UFO studies have been turned down by the Ford and Guggenheim Foundations because of the possibility of ridicule.

Statistics presented by Dr. Hynek and other experts such as French astrophysicist Jacques Vallée, showed remarkable similarity. Contrary to popular belief, for example, UFO sightings are not reported mainly by those who are a little weak in the head or had been drinking, but by all age groups and by people from all walks of life.

Again, most UFOs are reported not just by one person but by groups of people. Most sightings occur in isolated regions of the world, and many near military installations — especially in North America.

Equally disconcerting is the fact that many sightings have occurred just before world wars or, according to Latin American experts, just before earthquakes (such as those in Nicaragua and Guatemala).

Practically every American space mission has a UFO sighting and among those who spot flying saucers most regularly are air force pilots throughout the world.

If some of the UFOlogists' explanations sound a little far-fetched, so do official explanations discounting the sightings, such as "it was a reflection of the sun" or "the instruments were faulty." Even so, a quarter of the sightings recorded by the U.S. Air Force are unexplained.

While experts in Acapulco included U.S. UFOlogists like Ray Stanford, whose "Operation Starlight" in Austin, Texas,

is a massive UFO monitoring operation and Jim Loreux, Director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation, they also included debunkers of the extra-terrestrial theory.

Prominent among these was U.S. writer and journalist John Keel, who claimed UFOlogy had become a dangerous religion whose exponents were leading the world into "a new Dark Age." Keel does not deny the phenomenon, but links it with a magnetic force which has existed throughout history and caused mass hallucinations — sightings of objects like witches, the yeti and ghosts as well as of flying saucers.

The force, he said, was able to create a mass manipulation of the human mind. That was why UFO experiences tended to exhibit symptoms of trances and recite their experiences as if programmed. Instead of chasing flying saucers, he urged activists to "find the source of this mischief."

James Hurtak, another "bunker" spoke of an extended form of consciousness, level of universal intelligence which are beyond ours and capable of controlling the human mind. Costa Rican Jesuit Priest Salvador Freixedo likened the phenomenon to the existence of forms of intelligence in the upper storeys of a house in which man occupies the ground floor.

Another topic for debate at the conference was the possible cover-up of UFO investigations by intelligence agencies such as the CIA. UFOlogists told of flying saucer sightings being bugged, of photos, archives disappearing, and of government projects into gravity and allied subjects whose existence had been denied.

Perhaps the final word of the conference and on the phenomenon should be left to Dr. Hynek. "We mustn't make the mistake of thinking that, because it's 1977 we have reached the limits of knowledge," he said. "People may come to look at us and say 'back then they didn't even know what UFOs were.'"

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U.N. Maputo conference to criticise Western powers

MAPUTO, May 17 (AFP). — Western countries came in for sharp criticism for their links with Rhodesia and South Africa in draft documents circulating among delegations to the United Nations-sponsored conference in support of the Zimbabwe and Namibian peoples here.

The five-day conference, attended by 87 countries and representatives of Southern African liberation movements was opened yesterday by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. A drafting committee chaired by Tanzania's U.N. Ambassador, Salim Ahmed Salim, has produced "preliminary ideas for the text of the declaration and programme of action" — the two political documents the conference is to adopt.

France, though not named, was clearly the target of a clause in the draft, stating "the sale or supply of any arms and military material to South Africa ultimately supports the acts of aggression of South Africa against the Namibian (South West African), people and the United Nations."

The two documents aim at producing measures to isolate the governments of South Africa and Rhodesia and reflect the positions already taken up by the African group at the U.N.

Protestant leader threatens Irish peace negotiators

BELFAST, May 17 (R). — Andy Tyrrie, self-styled Supreme Commander of the Ulster Defence Association — the largest of Northern Ireland's para-military organisations — said today any of his members who took part in peace talks with Republican guerrillas risked being shot by their colleagues.

The execution warning came after Mr. Seán McBride, former United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Nobel Peace Prize winner, said he held secret talks with a Northern Irish barrister, Mr. Desmond Boal, at the behest of the guerrilla groups and drew up draft peace proposals.

Sources close to the militant Protestant leader pointed out that Mr. Tyrrie's threat did not prevent his members talking to intermediaries.

Mr. Tyrrie said he knew meetings had taken place, but warned: "If any members of our organisation meet the Provisionals (Irish Republican Army) in any way they face death. Some of our members would feel justified in shooting them."

Mr. McBride said in Dublin the talks with Mr. Boal in Northern Ireland and Paris took place after both sides had made it clear they "wanted to talk peace."

Mr. McBride, a former Chief of Staff of the IRA, said the exposure of the talks on a British television programme last night had spoiled their chances of success.

He said that he and Mr. Boal had been chosen by the opposing guerrilla groups as "men of experience and integrity whose views they would be prepared to listen to."

Mr. McBride, who acted as mediator for the Provisional

IRA in the talks, said the recent Protestant-inspired general strike in Northern Ireland "probably had the effect of putting everything into cold storage."

In the border county of South Armagh, security forces continued to search today for the young British army captain who the IRA claim they kidnapped and executed over the weekend.

Capt. Robert Nairne, 29, disappeared on Saturday night while on an army undercover operation. The army has denied the IRA claim that he was a member of the Special Air Service, an elite corps drafted into the province to root out guerrillas.

U.S. ready to declare Micronesia independent

WASHINGTON, May 17 (AFP). — The United States is ready to give independence to the 2,000 Micronesian Islands in the south Pacific if their population chooses, a State Department spokesman said yesterday.

He said the Carter administration would prefer a statute of "free association" between the United States and the islands, which have been under U.S. trusteeship for 30 years.

But the government would not dictate its terms and "other forms of self-determination, including independence, would be considered if that is the express desire of the Micronesian people," the spokesman added.

Negotiations on the future status of the islands have been in progress for several months, and reliable sources here said

"intensify their assistance to the liberation movement of Zimbabwe as the sole and authentic representative of the people of Zimbabwe."

They call for "all necessary economic and other assistance by all freedom-loving countries and peoples" to the two front-line nations spearheading black Africa's efforts to get settlements in Rhodesia and Namibia.

The five Western Security Council members, the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada, have been lobbying for support of their diplomatic campaigns for settlements in Rhodesia and Namibia. British Minister of State Ted Rowlands had a meeting today with Mr. Sam Nujoma, leader of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation), the main Namibian nationalist movement.

Lahore curfew lifted

LAHORE, Pakistan, May 17 (R). — An army-enforced curfew was completely lifted here today for the first time since martial law was imposed nearly four weeks ago.

Some troops still patrolled the Punjab capital, Pakistan's second biggest city with more than two million people, but there were no incidents.

Life was quickly returning to normal in the city, which has been one of the main centres for the past 10 weeks of opposition agitation to try to force Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to resign over disputed general elections last March.

Mr. Bhutto clamped martial law on three cities — Lahore,

Arab arms manufacturing body opens meet in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA, May 17 (R). — The multi-million dollar Arab Military Industrial Organisation (AMIO) began meetings here today to study the manufacturing of helicopters and anti-tank missiles, the official Middle East News Agency reported.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Egypt are the members of AMIO and were represented here by their war ministers.

The organisation was formed in 1975 with the aim of producing sophisticated arms for the use of Arab armies.

AMIO is considering several offers from French and British firms which agreed to help Arab countries produce advanced weapons, informed sources said.

President Anwar Sadat will meet the four ministers later today and they will attend a naval exercise tomorrow.

The meetings are expected to last for two days, sources added.

Owen advises Israelis to seize present opportunity

TEHRAN, May 17 (AFP). — British Foreign Secretary David Owen, in an interview published here today, urged Israelis to seize the present opportunity to moderate Arab leaders to safeguard their long term interests.

He warned against "excessive optimism," for a "great distance still separates" Arab and Israeli positions.

But, the British foreign secretary told the Tehran daily Kayhan, "the Arab leaders have never been as they are today, as moderate and as attracted by peace."

Israelis should understand it and seize this occasion for the sake of their long-term interests.

Dr. Owen, who was in Iran to represent Britain at the CENTO (Central Treaty Organisation) meeting held here last week, also declared that NATO fears over Soviet aggressiveness and the level of Soviet armaments were shared by the CENTO countries (Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Britain and the United States). Both alliances should remain vigilant, he said.

Dr. Owen strongly criticised racial discrimination in Rhodesia and South Africa. He had told the leaders of these two countries "they could not rely upon free world support against communism as long as they practised racialism."

The curfew has been steadily relaxed in Karachi and Hyderabad, but not yet completely lifted.

U.S. allows sale of Israeli, Swedish jet fighters to Austria

WASHINGTON, May 17 (R). — The United States has given the go-ahead for Austria to buy Israeli Kfir or Swedish Viggen jet fighters equipped with American engines, government sources said yesterday.

Austria is expected to decide this summer on the purchase of 24 planes from among the Kfir, the Viggen, the French

Mirage F-1 and the American Northrop F-5.

The United States must approve the sale of foreign aircraft containing advanced American technology.

The sources said the United States told both Israel and Sweden last week that it had no objection in principle to the sale of either plane to Austria.

Fossil find upsets theories on populating of America

PLASTER CITY, California, May 17 (AFP). — Human fossils 100,000 years old have been found in southern California, upsetting all theories so far on the populating of America.

The discovery was presented on Monday to the Southern Anthropological Association here by Mr. Morlin Childers of the Imperial Valley Museum.

Only a few months ago it was thought that the first Asians arrived in America, across the Bering Straits, some 20,000 years ago. A more recent archaeological discovery put the first inhabitants of America back 40,000 years.

Mr. Childers said he had discovered a piece of human femur and a shoulder blade, and some 80 stone tools. The discovery came after the passage last September of the cyclone Kathleen which had swept the ground and exposed the remains.

Mondale: U.S. thrilled with Spanish reforms

MADRID, May 17 (Agencies). — U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale conferred today with Spanish leaders during a one-day visit primarily designed to express American support for Spain's post-Franco reforms.

Only a few hours before he arrived from Lisbon on the second leg of his European tour, a powerful bomb wrecked a floor of a U.S. Cultural Centre in central Madrid, injuring one man.

An anonymous phone caller to a Madrid newspaper said the Urban guerrilla group GRAPO claimed responsibility for the bomb attack.

GRAPO, the First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups, have been responsible for killing policemen and the kidnapping of two senior Spanish officials six months ago.

But after rescuing the hostages and capturing their kidnappers police said the organisation had been broken up.

In a statement on arrival the vice president said the changes undertaken by the Spanish government since Gen. Franco died 18 months ago had thrilled and excited the U.S.

Spurred by the example of Spain, he said: "There is a new confidence in democracy around the world... Your nation and its leadership have demonstrated to the world that the forces of democracy are not on the decline but on the offensive."

Spaniards vote next month in the country's first free parliamentary elections for more than 40 years.

Mr. Mondale said relations between Spain and the United States had never been sounder and added: "both of our countries now share a common love and support of democracy."

From the airport, Mr. Mon-

dale went to Moncloa Palace, official residence of Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, for talks.

He was scheduled to make a courtesy call on King Juan Carlos.

Mr. Mondale told reporters travelling aboard his U.S. air force jet as he flew from Lisbon that he expected his talks to centre on the democratic reforms and possible Spanish membership of the European Common Market and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).

The U.S. supports Spanish membership of both bodies. Spain is expected to take the first steps towards applying for admittance to both shortly after the June 15 elections.

Mr. Mondale leaves Madrid

early tomorrow to confer with South African Prime Minister John Vorster in Vienna.

The time bomb which wrecked part of the United States Cultural Centre was placed, a soft drink vending machine and demolished the second floor of the two-storey centre, a U.S. spokesman in Madrid said.

The director of the centre, Mr. Miro Morville, said there was no indication of the motive for the bombing.

He said the bomb was a powerful it ripped a three-foot hole in a floor made of 30 cm reinforced concrete.

The blast also destroyed classrooms and library files and flying glass injured the porter of a neighbouring apartment.

Kuwaiti team in USSR shopping for weapons

KUWAIT, May 17 (R). — A Kuwaiti military delegation is now in the Soviet Union to negotiate the purchase of sophisticated arms, according to Defence and Interior Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Sheikh Saad, who was at the airport last night to greet Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on his return from a five-nation tour, said Kuwait wanted to buy weapons from all countries but "no strings should be attached."

He did not disclose the types of weapons his country intended to buy from the Soviet Union, but well-informed sources said Kuwait was interested in SAM-7 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles and other rockets.

Kuwait, which until recently depended on Britain, its former protector power, for its arms supplies is apparently em-

barking on a policy of diversifying its source of arms.

It has already bought American-made Skyhawk bombers and French Mirage fighter bombers. At least four of each type had been delivered and last week they were inspected by the defence minister.

There was no official word on the number of planes bought. But Kuwaiti newspapers the Arab Times, said a squadron of each type had been purchased.

Arrangements are underway now for a five-day visit to Britain from May 23 by Sheikh Saad, who said last night that military experts were preparing an arms shopping list from Britain.

The sources said Kuwait was interested in the Chieftain tank and the Jaguar fighter-bomber. The shopping list could also include heavy artillery, the sources said.

Non-aligned nations think treaty to ban "weather weapons" is spurious

GENEVA, May 17 (AFP). — The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, United States and 11 other Warsaw Pact and NATO countries will tomorrow sign a treaty to outlaw the weather weapon — interference with the environment for military ends, U.N. sources said here today.

Non-aligned nations are expected to boycott the signing ceremony here. They argue that a ban on man-made earthquakes and tidal waves deflects attention from the real issues facing the U.N. Conference on Disarmament, such as atomic tests.

The treaty, negotiated last year by the Soviet Union and United States, forbids modifications of the environment

for military purposes which would have widespread, lasting or serious consequences.

"Widespread" is taken to mean extended over more than a few hundred sq. kms., "lasting" means a season or more and "serious" means causing the destruction of, or damage to, human life, or the natural and economic resources of any country that signs the treaty.

Its sponsors say the accord will outlaw man-made catastrophes and interference with natural phenomena like the ozone layer, which protects the earth from intense solar radiation, micro-climates and ocean currents.

This is precisely why non-aligned nations, particularly in Latin America, said the treaty is spurious.

None of the kind of practices which the agreement seeks to ban is thought to have occurred, even for non-military purposes.

Yet again, the non-aligned nations say, the world's two big military-political blocs are turning the spotlight away from the really serious issues, such as the development of chemical weapons and the continuation of atomic testing.

The signers are, from the Warsaw Pact: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and the Soviet Union; and from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation: Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and the United States.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* MOSCOW, May 17 (AFP). — The Soviet Tass agency yesterday denied as a "false fabrication" a report that a Soviet military base was being built in Uganda. The agency criticised the French daily Le Matin de Paris for publishing the report.

* KUWAIT, May 17 (AFP). — Sudan will soon send pilots and fighters bombers to Zaïre at the request of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al 'am reported today. A Sudanese military mission had gone to Zaïre to assess the Zaïre armed forces' military needs, the paper said. The newspaper said the Egyptian president was hoping to set up an army of detachments from various Arab countries for the defence of African states.

* NAIROBI, Kenya, May 17 (AFP). — Ethiopian People's Militia "wiped out" 182 outlaws in Shoa Province, central Ethiopia last week, Radio Addis Ababa monitored here reported last night. The killings brought to nearly 700 the number of "reactionary bandits, outlaws, anti-revolutionaries and infiltrators" whose "liquidation" has been officially announced this month.

* ALEXANDRIA, May 17 (R). — Sultan Qabus Ibn Said of Oman and President Anwar Sadat today began formal talks here on world problems. The Gulf states and the Red Sea, official sources here said. Both men had a brief private meeting before they were joined by their aides, the sources added. The Sultan arrived here yesterday for three days of talks.

* TEHRAN, May 17 (AFP). — Multi-party political systems are unsuitable in Iran and most other countries too. The head of Iran's only legal party affirmed in a statement published by newspapers here today. Mr. Jamshid Amouzegar, Secretary General of the Rastkhiz (Renewal) Party, said that when one party takes over an administration from another party, "a period of uncertainty and chaos generally results which is harmful to the public interest."

* BAGHDAD, May 17 (R). — Mr. Philip Habib, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State, left here today after a two-day visit to Iraq. The Iraq News Agency, reporting this, said Mr. Habib acquainted Iraqi Foreign Minister Saadoun Hammadi with his country's viewpoint on bilateral relations and the Middle East situation. In turn, Dr. Hammadi explained Iraq's stand on these issues, it added. The agency gave no other details on the deliberations.

* MANILA, May 17 (R). — A Filipino woman slum worker, whose charges that she had been tortured brought intervention by the United States, was today allowed to try to indicate her alleged tortures at an identification parade. President Ferdinand Marcos last Friday ordered the release from detention of 37-year-old Mrs. Trinidad Herrera following protests from the U.S. State Department and 15 local Roman Catholic bishops. Mrs. Herrera, who was detained on April 26 in connection with demonstrations banned under martial law, said the torture included electric shocks to a nipple. Though there was no official statement on the identification parade at Camp Crame, headquarters of the para-military constabulary, informed sources said Mrs. Herrera had picked out one man, believed to be a lieutenant, as one of the alleged torturers.

Vance, Gromyko open second SALT round in Geneva today

By Roy Gutman

GENEVA, May 17 (R). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko make their second attempt to agree on goals for a new round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) here tomorrow.

American officials, however, say they do not know whether the Soviet Union is willing to reach an agreement acceptable to the U.S. and are uncertain about the outcome of the talks, which begin on Wednesday. Some U.S. sources doubt whether any immediate progress is possible.

It is seven weeks since Mr. Vance met Soviet leaders in Moscow for talks which ended with the two countries daily rejecting each other's proposals for limiting their nuclear arsenals.

Before that meeting President Carter publicly declared that the U.S. aim was to seek a sweeping change in the goals of a new SALT agreement. Instead of limited weapons, the United States wanted substantial reductions of existing arms inventories and limits on development of new weapons.

This time there has been a number of quiet diplomatic contacts in Washington and little advance publicity. Mr. Vance has been unwilling to voice any hopes for the talks, which will last two or three days and also deal with the Middle East.

A senior American official who accompanied Mr. Vance on a visit to Tehran said he hoped some common ground could be found here this week, but he was uncertain if this would be possible.

He said a number of Soviet ideas had been floated in the press or through diplomatic contacts in the past month. But the Russians had tabled no new proposals to break the impasse nor were any expected. Mr. Vance also had no new proposals to bring to Geneva.

But the U.S. has changed its approach to the talks, and has made clear its willingness to discuss alternatives to its own proposals, while maintaining its aim of substantial cuts in nuclear arms.

At a news conference last Friday, Mr. Vance said that a synthesis might be found that would include elements from the three proposals now on the table — a Soviet proposal for minimal cuts, a similar U.S. proposal, and the wider American one.

An acceptable synthesis could include the following elements, according to U.S. sources:

Like the Soviet proposal and the American minimal offer, it would call for immediate minor cuts, of the sort the two countries agreed in a Vladivostok in December, 1974, when President Ford met Soviet Communist Party Chairman Leonid Brezhnev.

The Vladivostok ceiling was set at 2,400 strategic nuclear weapons, such as missiles and bombers, and about 1,100 MIRVs. The U.S. would want reductions on this scale incorporated into a subsequent SALT agreement.

Other proposals were to ban

2,550 nuclear weapons, according to U.S. estimates, while the United States has 2,150.

Second, the synthesis would include a declaration of principles in which both countries stated that they would begin negotiations for a comprehensive agreement in a further round of SALT meetings immediately following the agreement. The contents of this would largely reflect U.S. proposals for a comprehensive cut-back.

Unlike the Soviet proposal, this synthesis would not specifically ban Cruise missiles, the sources said. But it would be written so as to effectively suspend, at least temporarily, the development and deployment of the low-flying and highly accurate pilotless Drone on which U.S. development is far ahead of the Soviets.

The American comprehensive proposal calls for both sides to reduce their arsenals to between 1,800 and 2,000 missiles and bombers, and about 1,100 MIRVs. The U.S. would want reductions on this scale incorporated into a subsequent SALT agreement.

Other proposals were to ban

"Rich Man, Poor Man" really turned him on!

JOHANNESBURG, May 17 (R). — The sight of three Mafia gangsters chasing a hero across the television screen was too much for a South African viewer, who pulled out his gun and put a bullet through the screen.

Mr. Mannie Saldman, a television repair shop owner, said today a customer in the store was watching the latest episode of "Rich Man, Poor Man," an American serial.

In the sequence, "Poor Man" Tom Jordache was being chased across the stage of a New York cinema by the gangsters.

The excited customer leaped to his feet, yelled: "I'll get them!" — and shot a gangster in the back.

Mr. Saldman, standing beside the shattered set today, refused to identify his customer "because he's so ashamed about getting so heated."

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